



Fire Marshal's Notice

July 2016

State Fire Marshal Announces Amendments to the Texas Fire Alarm Rules

The following is a synopsis of some of the substantive changes to the Fire Alarm Rules. The Commissioner of Insurance, through the State Fire Marshal, has amended the Fire Alarm Rules in order to resolve inconsistencies within the rules, update obsolete statutory references, and clarify the intent of the rules to better reflect statutory purpose. The new rules took effect June 23, 2016 - Commissioner's Order No. 4542.

28 TAC §§ 34.600 the Fire Alarm Rules (effective 6/23/2016)

- §34.609. **Approved Testing Organization.** Includes the fire marshal's recognition of another approved testing organization, the Electronic Security Association (ESA), as a testing standards organization for testing license applicants
- §34.613.(b)(1) **Applications.** Adds a requirement for the applicant to furnish, along with the application for a license, a copy of the applicant's criminal history report from the Texas Department of Public Safety.
- §34.616.(b)(1) **Sales, Installation, and Service.** Added language to specify that a licensee who plans fire detection and fire alarm devices or systems must be licensed under the primary registered firm.
- §34.616.(b)(4) **Sales, Installation, and Service.** Adds servicing to the list of functions that must be done in accordance with the adopted standards. The amendments also allow for system planning, installation, and servicing if it complies with a more recent standard adopted by the political subdivision in which the system is installed.
- §34.616.(d) **Sales, Installation, and Service.** Establishes a two-year recordkeeping requirement for firms. Additionally, the amendment specifies that the state fire marshal or the state fire marshal's representative can examine the operation records for service, maintenance, testing, and certification.
- §34.622.(c) **Inspection/Test Labels.** Specifies that an inspection/test label may be applied only after an AHJ has approved the new installation.
- §34.622.(e) **Inspection/Test Labels.** Requires notice to the AHJ when a fault or impairment has been corrected.
- §34.622.(k) **Inspection/Test Labels.** Provides for indicating the name and address of the business where the inspection occurred.
- §34.623.(d) **Yellow Labels.** Requires the inspector or service provider to notify the AHJ when corrections are made or a yellow label is removed or revised.
- §34.624.(d) **Red Labels.** Requires the inspector or service provider to notify the AHJ when corrections are made or a red label is removed or revised.
- §34.631. **Military Service Members, Military Veterans, or Military Spouses.** New section puts all military-related waivers and exemptions in one section so that affected persons are on notice that the provisions may apply to them.